



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**South County Housing Still Accepting Applications  
For Self Help Homes in Hollister**  
*Orientation Meetings Scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at Vets' Hall*

Low and very low income families interested in owning their own home in Hollister are invited to apply for a mutual self help home in South County Housing's Hillview 2 community. The buyers' sweat equity will provide their down payment, with families working with other buyers to build a new neighborhood together. Families interested in applying should plan on attending one of the upcoming orientation meetings at Hollister Veterans' Memorial Hall, 649 San Benito Street:

Tuesday, July 10, 6:00 PM – Main Hall – English language

Wednesday, July 11, 6:00 PM – Upstairs Room #218 – Spanish language

Applications are being accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To RSVP for the orientation meeting or for information about applying, call 408-778-8815.

Special USDA mortgages designed to be affordable to low income buyers offer payments based on interest rates as low as 1%. Additional down payment assistance to reduce the first mortgage amount by up to \$60,000 is available for qualified borrowers. Sweat equity involves the families providing 65% of the labor required to build their homes over the course of approximately one year. South County Housing is a thirty-two year old non-profit affordable housing developer working in the Central Coast area. The organization has successfully worked with 246 Hollister families in the construction of self help homes, as well as building over 750 additional self help and subcontracted homes throughout their service area. SCH also owns and operates over 1500 rental units.

Twenty-five similar self help homes were completed by South County Housing last September at the adjacent Hillview 1 community. The Hillview 2 homes will incorporate many of the same features that make the Hillview 1 homes some of the most energy efficient in the City of Hollister. Almost all of the houses will be oriented to benefit from passive solar heating. The Self Help families will set ceramic tile in the living areas on 11" thick structural slabs to provide mass for the storage and release of heat from the sun. This mass will also help keep the homes cooler in the summer. SCH is planning on partnering with Grid Alternatives to provide photovoltaic systems to all the homes for minimal cost to the homeowners. These solar systems will provide for most of the owners' electrical needs. The building envelope will be very well insulated, using 2x6 walls with recycled blown cellulous insulation providing R22 in the walls and R38 in the attics. These features, along with high efficiency condensing furnaces and on-demand hot water heaters, will result in very low utility bills.